

MACROECONOMICS OF TISSUE

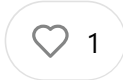
Two Straits, One Talks: The U.S.-China Summit

Energy, rare earths, semiconductors - explain everything that's going on in Beijing



STEVE LE

MAY 13, 2026



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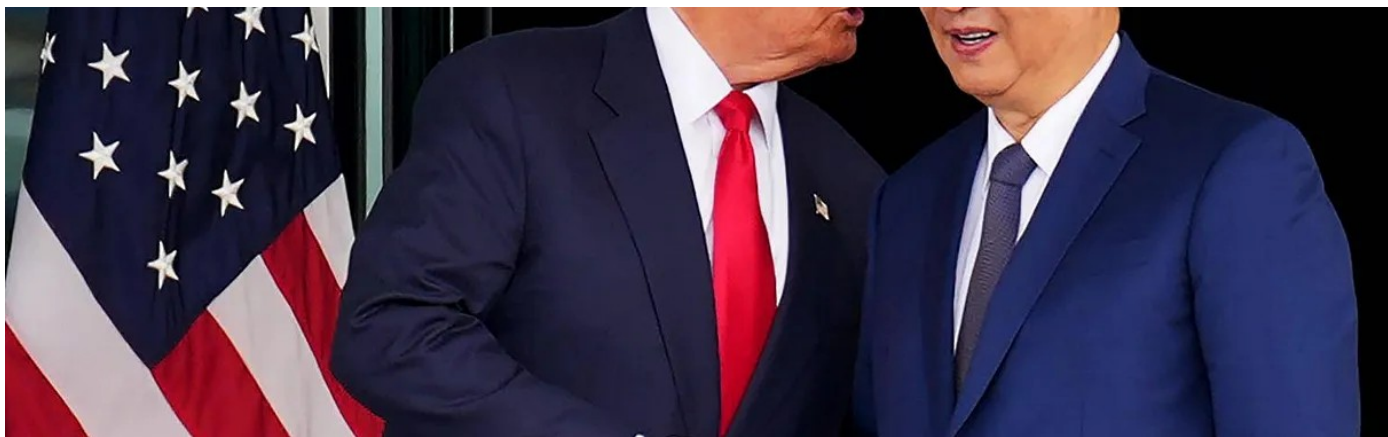
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The April CPI amounted to 3.8% — highest since spring 2023.

Gasoline \$4.50/gallon nationwide, California above \$6.

WTI Oil \$101.50.

Treasury yields 10 years 4.45%, inching from 4.36% in just one week.

Trump credit rating: 34-38%.

That's the setting that Trump brought with him and stepped on Air Force 1 to Beijing yesterday afternoon.



Trump Administration

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LIVE Updated Just Now

Trump Administration Live Updates: President Arrives in China for High-Stakes Summit

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He is with Boeing CEO Tim Cook, and Elon Musk. Beijing is likely to offer to order Boeing — possibly up to 500.

And then there will be a national bird, the “Commercial Council,” “Investor’s Council”
The same scenario as 2017.

- That year, China Energy Investment Corp. signed a memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to invest \$83.7 billion in shale, electrical and chemical gas projects in West Virginia.
- The value of this MOU even exceeds the GDP of West Virginia.
- However, this deal has never been a reality.



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BEIJING (Reuters) - U.S. companies, from chip giant Qualcomm to aircraft maker Boeing, announced a slew of deals on Thursday during U.S. President Donald Trump's visit to Beijing. The deals could be valued as much as \$250 billion, though some have been long in the pipeline and many are non-binding.

Here is a summary of the announced deals:

* **China Energy Investment Corp.**, the world's largest power company by asset value, has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to **invest \$83.7 billion** in shale gas, power and chemical projects in West Virginia.

Steve commented in the Nov. 5 video: this should be seen as “checkpoint, not reset breakthrough.”

But the bottom line is not what the camera can capture. It is located in two straits — one that is on fire, one that causes Beijing to lose sleep — and how they are reshaping the global energy chessboard in a direction that much of the market has not yet reflected in the price.

In today’s article, Viet Hustler will join you to read the strategic map behind the Trump-Episode summit — from Iranian oil to Greenland-rare, from DFC maritime reinsurance mechanism to the 2027 semiconductor chip race.

1. Numbers That No One Put On The Front Page
2. Chiều Ngược Lại — Trung Quốc Không Chỉ Mua Dầu
3. Hai Eo Biển — Proof of Concept & Ứng Dụng
4. Năng Lượng Mỹ — Phân Kỳ Dầu và Khí
5. Cuộc Đua Tài Nguyên — Khóa Chặt Sân Sau
6. TSMC, Anduril & Đếm Ngược Tới 2027

Part I. Numbers That No One Put On The Front Page

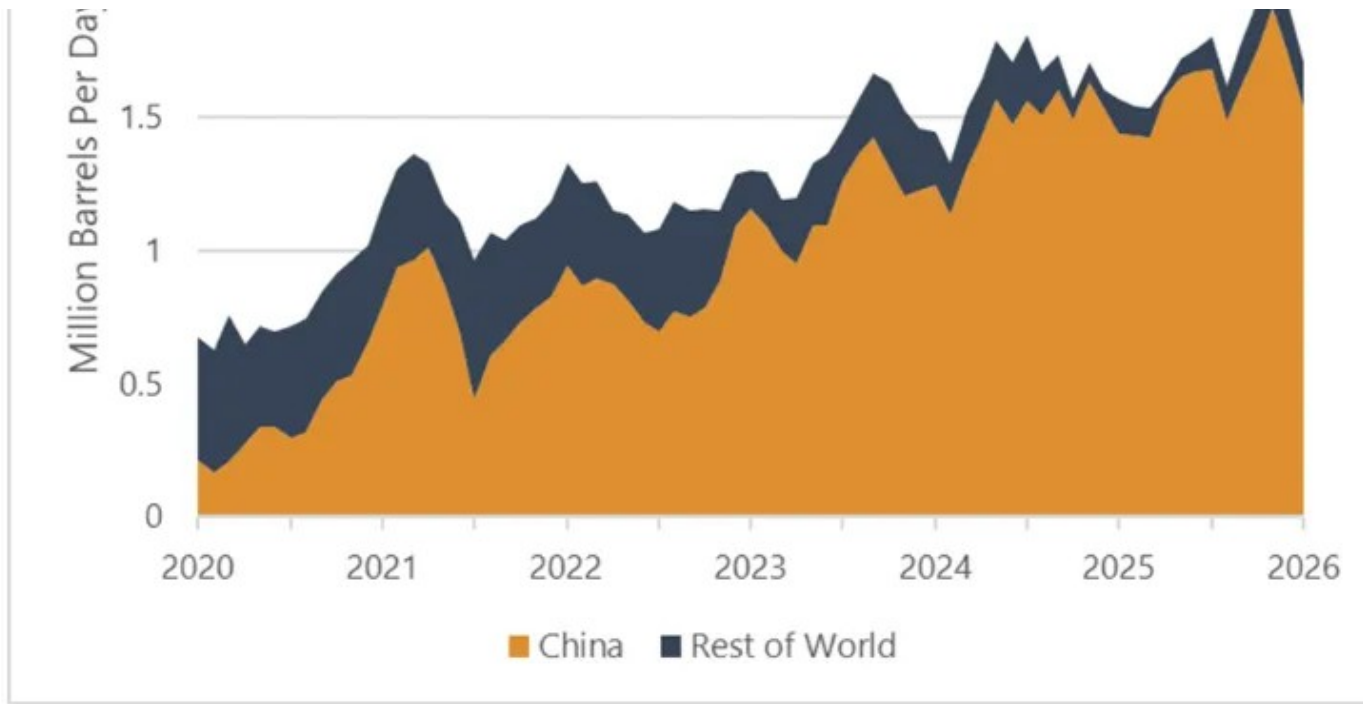
The only truth that most media is buried:

Trung Quốc mua 80-90% số dầu mà Iran xuất khẩu.

- Figures from Kpler 2025: an average of 1.38 million bpd.
- Ủy ban Đánh giá Kinh tế-An ninh Mỹ-Trung (USCC) đặt cao hơn — 1.5 triệu - Chiếm khoảng 13% tổng lượng dầu thô nhập khẩu của Trung Quốc.
- Không phải giao dịch để ăn chênh lệch — đây chính là nguồn nguyên liệu với c chiết khấu - dùng để nuôi sống hệ thống nhà máy lọc dầu tư nhân ở Sơn Đông

Figure: Iranian Crude Oil Export Destination (Three-Month Moving Average), January 2020–January 2026





Source: United Against Nuclear Iran, "Iran Tanker Tracker."

Glance at the official trade figure: \$9.96 billion in bilateral turnover in 2025.

- Look closely: if plus \$31.2 billion of unreported crude oil (followed by Tehran Bureau and UANI), total crude oil trading exceeds \$41 billion, accounting for more than 75% of bilateral turnover.

Paper Legal Framework: Comprehensive Strategic Partnership March 2021. The 25-year deal. The headline of \$400 billion is invested.

MIDDLE EAST

The New York Times

China, With \$400 Billion Iran Deal, Could Deepen Influence in Mideast

The countries signed a sweeping pact on Saturday that calls for heavy Chinese investments in Iran over 25 years in exchange for oil — a step that could ease Iran's international isolation.



Share full article



Fact: near no disbursement. Punishment is all. What this deal actually creates:

- Payment by yuan via CIPS — parallel payment system with SWIFT
- Iran joins BRICS (1/2024) and SCO (7/2023)
- Political Commitment to the Non-Dollar Block



15th BRICS Summit, 2023

Two-way, but disproportionate running dependency:

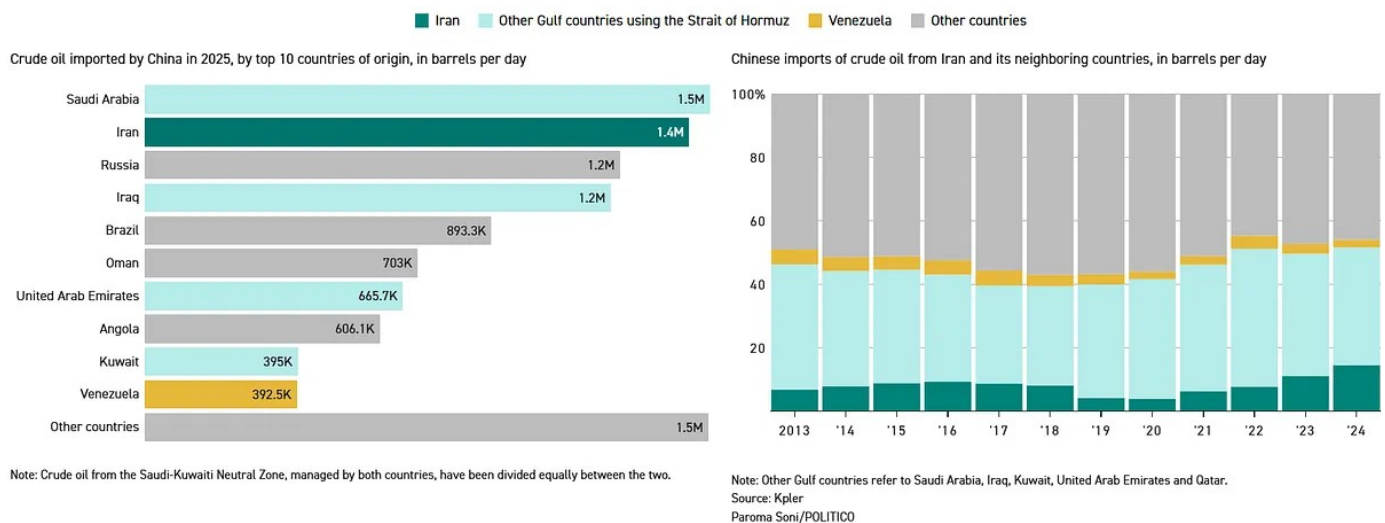
- Iran sells crude goods at discounted prices.
- China sells high-value manufacturing goods.
- China is the pricer.
- Iran is the one who accepts the price.

- Before the war, Beijing pressed the discounts more and more because Iran had nowhere else to sell.

When the U.S. sealed off the Iranian port on March 4, 1926, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps mines and patrols Hormuz – the country that took 80-90% of its Iranian customers.

But the country lost 1.5 million barrels per day of cheap oil, plus 4-6 million barrels day of Gulf oil through Hormuz — China.

17 percent of China's oil came from Venezuela and Iran last year



It's the truth that reshapes everything at the negotiating table this week.

Black Oil Supply Chain

Heavy crude oil from the island of Kharg is too characteristic to be able to transport the status quo — from chemical, density, to sulfur records all denounced Iranian origin.

Therefore, the actual path:

- **The Persian Gulf Star (PGSR) Petroleum Refinery:** 360,000 bpd, three phases

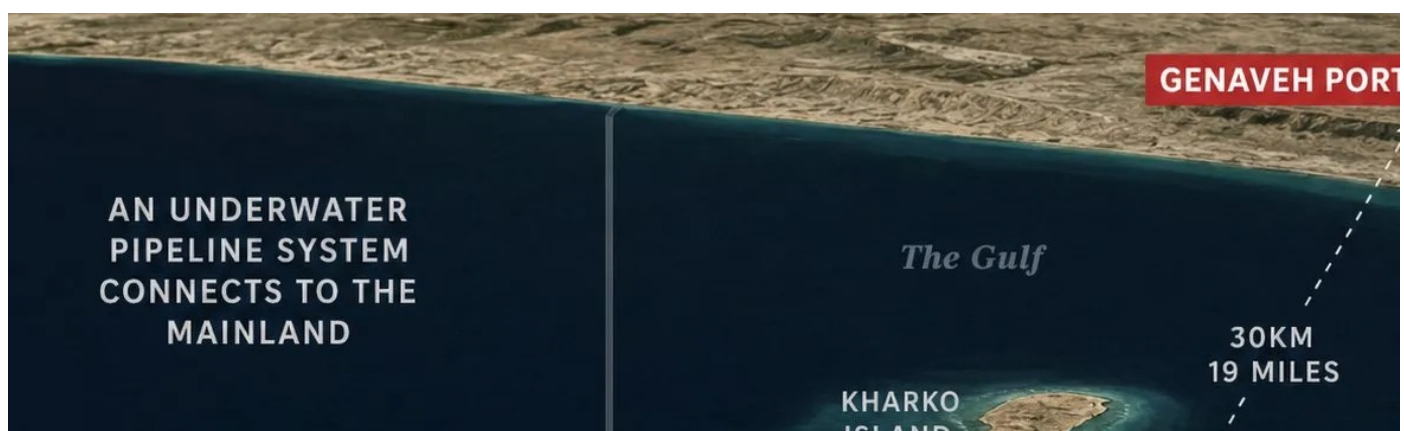
construction - \$3.4 billion.

- The world's largest condensate refinery.
- Compoising crude oil into naphtha — lightweight hydrocarbons used as a blender
- **The shadow fleet** took both heavy crude and naphtha from Iran.
- **Ship-to-ship shipment** off Malaysia/Indonesia: mixing two things, labeling "Malaysia blend"
- Forged AIS signal, ghost ship (shipped but the IMO number is still broadcast), f documents → OFAC clear warning on 04/28
- Products to **hand Shandong private oil refinery** in the name of clean crude o no punitive orders

PGSR is a 4-mile 4-mile from the IRGC naval headquarters in Bandar Abbas. Khatam Anbiya — the construction arm of IRGC — built all three phases.

- The output supplied to the IRGC fleet and the missile production chain.
- Through ~2,500 airstrikes during Operation Epic Fury (U.S.) and Operation Roar Lion (Israel), the two countries hit Fordow, Natanz, Isfahan, IRGC naval headquarters, Kharg Island, the entire Iranian submarine fleet, and at least 16 submarine facilities.

But it's not going to hit PGSR.





The most likely explanation is due to the political alliance.

- PGSR supplies gasoline to 90 million Iranians.
- To fight it is to cross the line from targeting military targets to anti-demonstrat economic warfare — the boundaries that Saudi Arabia and the UAE cannot ope accept.
- If the summit fails and the war continues, PGSR is most likely to make the targe list.
- Logic: Destroying the supply of Iranian domestic fuel at the same time, the nakhtha blend operation supplied to Shandong, and sending Beijing signals co not be clearer.

Private refinery — and the internal rift of Beijing

Shandong private refinery — “teapots” — account for about 25 percent of China’s refining capacity.



They exist to do what Sinopec, CNPC, CNOOC cannot: the treatment of sanctions oil or crude oil from Iran, Russia, Venezuela. Privately absorbs the risk to the state to keep hands clean. The possibility of denying national responsibility.

The U.S. Treasury Department’s Timeline says it all:

- **04/15:** Secretary of Bessent at the White House — “If you’re buying Iranian oil, we’re willing to impose secondary sanctions.”

- Warning letter to two unnamed Chinese banks



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WASHINGTON, April 15 (Reuters) - The United States on Wednesday threatened to sanction buyers of Iranian oil and said it believed China would pause such purchases as Washington enforces a maritime blockade on Iran.

"We have told countries that if you are buying Iranian oil, that if Iranian money is sitting in your banks, we are now willing to apply secondary sanctions," U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent told reporters at the White House.

- **04/24:** Hang Force (Hengli Petrochemical, ~400,000 barrels/day) is punished w ~40 shipping companies. Bessent named: "Economic Indifference"

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PRESS RELEASES

Economic Fury Targets Global Network Fueling Iran's Oil Trade and Shadow Fleet

April 24, 2026

Crackdown Targets Chinese Teapot Refinery; 40 Shipping Firms and Vessels

WASHINGTON—Today, the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) sanctioned China-based independent teapot refinery **Hengli Petrochemical (Dalian) Refinery Co., Ltd. (Hengli)**. China-based independent teapot refineries continue to play a vital role in sustaining Iran's oil economy, and Hengli is one of Iran's largest customers for crude oil ; other petroleum products, having purchased billions of dollars' worth of Iranian petroleum. Additionally, OFAC is targeting approximately 40 shipping firms and vessels that operate as pa

- **04/28:** OAC warns of the entire financial institution — call the name of Shando province
- **05/08:** Sanctions on Chinese companies and 2 Hong Kong companies for supplying Iranian missile components. Six days before the summit

OFAC ALERT



Sanctions Risk of Dealing with Teapot Oil Refineries

April 28, 2026

The Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) is alerting financial institutions to the sanctions risks of dealing with independent oil refineries in China (known as “teapot” refineries), primarily in Shandong Province, given their continued key role in importing and refining Iranian crude oil, including throughout 2026. Since March 2025, OFAC designated multiple teapot refineries, which collectively have purchased and refined billions of dollars’ worth of Iranian oil.

On February 4, 2025, President Trump signed [National Security Presidential Memorandum-2](#), reimposing maximum pressure on the Iranian regime and driving a whole-of-government approach to deny Iran all paths to a nuclear weapon and counter its malign influence. OFAC maintains comprehensive sanctions on Iran and will continue to target the regime’s main revenue-generating sectors, in particular its petroleum and petrochemical sectors, under Executive Order 13902 and other sanctions authorities.



Then Beijing does one thing – causing the internal rift perfectly:

- **05/01:** The National Financial Management Agency *silently* offers internal guidance to banks: **comply with** U.S. sanctions on named oil refineries

- **05/02:** Ministry of Commerce *openly* invokes the first blockade law in history: **against** US sanctions

Private direction: compliance. Public order: against. China's entire stance on Iran compressed in two sentences.

- Beijing wants oil discounts.
- But Beijing does not want to be cut off from the dollar payment system.

Part II. The Opposite Direction — China Doesn't Just Buy Oil

The oil is only half. The other half is what flows backwards.

Evidence is piling up:

- **6/2025:** Pishgaman Tejarat Rafi Novin Co. (Iran) ordered ammonium perchlorate from Lion Commodities Holdings (Hong Kong) — enough to produce about 80 ballistic missiles

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EXCLUSIVE WORLD

Iran Orders Material From China for Hundreds of Ballistic Missiles

Tehran wants to bolster military capacity amid contentious nuclear talks with U.S.

By Laurence Norman

June 5, 2025 7:00 pm ET

Advertisement

- **In early 2025,** two Iranian-flagged ships (Golbon and Jairan) loaded with about 1,000 tons of sodium perchlorate in Thailand, near Shanghai — enough for abc

260 short-range missiles.

- The April 25 Shahid Rajaei port explosion was caused by the IRGC mishandling the perchlorate from the same supply chain.
- **4/2026:** U.S. intelligence points out China preparing to transport FN-6 shouldered anti-aircraft missiles to Iran via Pakistan and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

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POLITICS • 3 MIN READ

Exclusive: US intelligence indicates China is preparing weapons shipment to Iran amid fragile ceasefire, sources say

UPDATED APR 12, 2026 ▾

- The New York Times then confirmed at least one shipment may have arrived.
- **3/4/2026:** A US F-15E Strike Eagle was shot down near Isfahan — almost certainly due to MANPAD (1 type of missile). Very remarkable time





- **BeiDou integration:** The Shahab-3 and Fattah series missiles are hitting target that five years ago definitely failed.
 - According to the consensus of analysts in CSIS and IISS: BeiDou navigation signal (China satellite navigation system, equivalent to GPS) is being integrated into the Iranian missile tail component set

Trump posted Truth Social on August 4: Threatening to tax at 50% of any country that supplies weapons to Iran. Name of China.



DONALD TRUMP

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Public reaction: silence. The Ministry of Finance sanctioned two Chinese companies and 2 Hong Kong on August 5 — six days before the summit. An insult is calculated carefully.

China is not a passive buyer. China is an upstream supplier of missiles, targeted infrastructure, anti-aircraft and anti-ship weapons that are pointing at U.S. military personnel in the Persian Gulf right now.

Part III. Two Seas – Proof of Concept & Application

Hormuz — Proof of Concept

Before the war: 33-45% crude oil imported from China through Hormuz (4.6-5.8 million barrels per day).

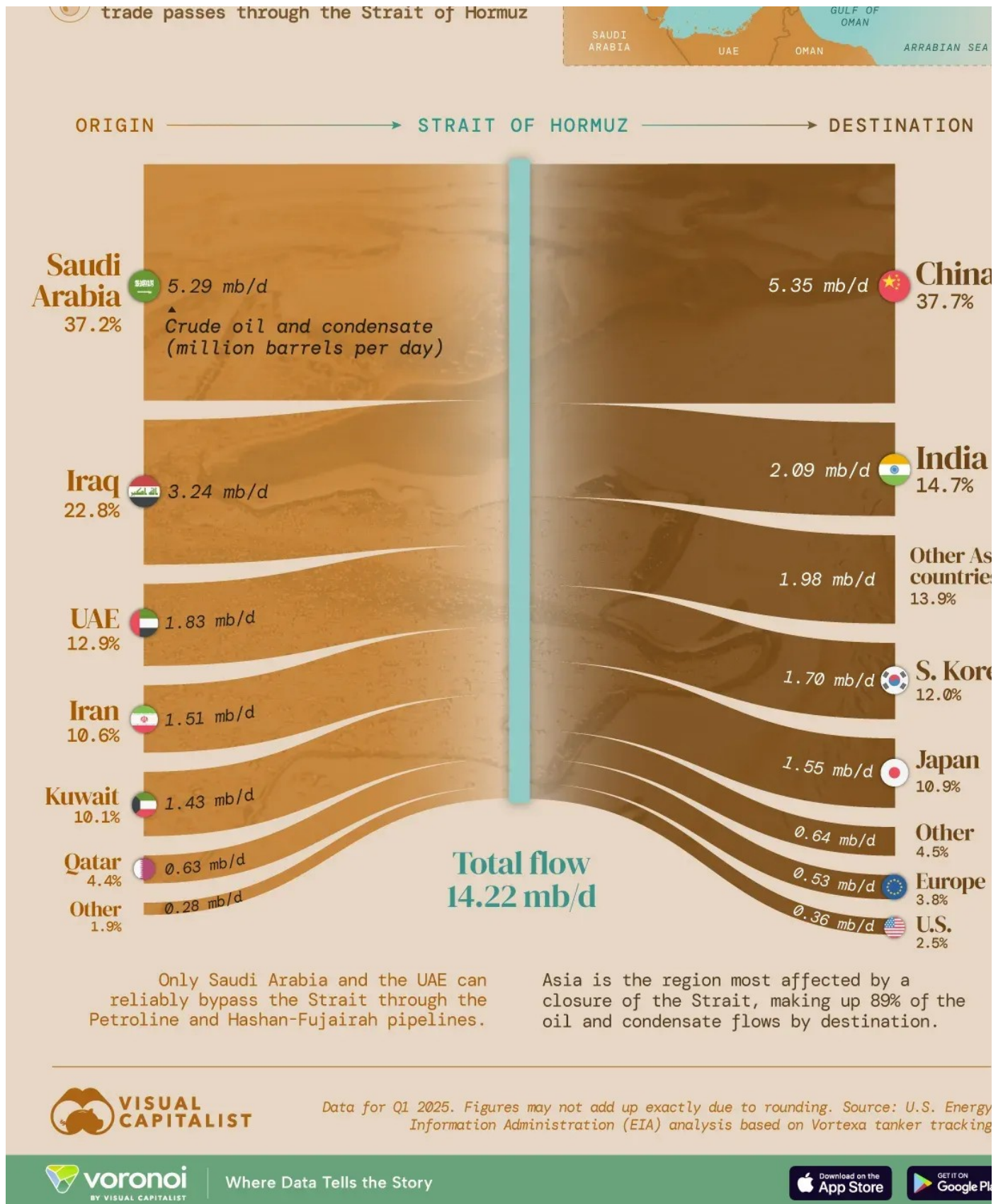
- China receives 37.7 percent of the world's total oil through the strait — the most.
- The Persian Gulf offers half of the oil imports and one-third of China's liquefied natural gas (LNG) gas.

The Strait of Hormuz's Oil Flow by Country



Around 25% of the world's maritime oil





Malacca — application

Hu named “Malacca Dilemma” in 2003:

- 80% of oil imports, about 66% of Chinese maritime trade passes through the 2. kilometre-wide strait at the narrowest point.
- The United States operates from Guam, Diego Garcia, Okinawa, the Philippines, and has just signed a defense treaty with Indonesia in April 2022.



Chee Meng Tan writes on Foreign Policy (Nov. 05): The Iran war could have greater consequences than physical blockades.

The U.S. doesn't need to stop a single ship, just do two things:

- The Joint War Committee at Lloyd's added port to the high risk list → war risk premiums increased 10-50 times → push China out of the insurance market
- Warning of coastal states: enabling oil to turn toward China will have its own pr

The price of oil to China / the premium will be very high.

The case of Hormuz in this war proves that the risk of war jumps from 0.25% of the hull value up to 3-10%.

- Commercial operators stopped transiting because of insurance, even before the navy intervened.
- CENTCOM intercepted more than 70 ships.
- 20,000 sailors stranded in the Gulf as of September 5.

Hormuz is proof of concept. Malacca is the application.

DFC Toll Station — Permanent Architecture

This is the most important part that few newspapers mention:

- **March 3,26:** Trump's directives → DFC and Chubb announce more reinsurance partners in the U.S. and expand coverage of up to \$20 billion to the maritime reinsurance sector.
- **3/4:** Double → 40 billion. Chubb led the way. Six US insurers: Travelers, Liberty Mutual, Berkshire Hathaway, AIG, Starr, CNA



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NEWSROOM | **IN THE PRESS**

MEDIA RELEASE

DFC, Chubb Announce Additional American Reinsurance Partners and up to \$40B in Coverage for Maritime Reinsurance

April 3, 2026

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) and Chubb today announced six additional American insurance partners that will provide reinsurance for DFC's Maritime Reinsurance plan: Travelers, Liberty Mutual Insurance

Berkshire Hathaway, AIG, Starr, and CNA. On top of DFC's \$20 billion in rolling coverage, Chubb and these new partners will provide an additional \$20 billion, bringing the total Maritime Reinsurance facility to \$40 billion. The plan is designed to deliver on President

- **Mechanism:** Ships want war hedging in the Gulf → through Lloyd's insurance combinations → Lloyd's reinsurance via DFC → DFC only approves the US itinerary allows → each application = the full picture: who owns the ship, who owns the goods, who sponsors

But there's a harsh reality: insurance doesn't drive the train himself. The new crew drove the ship. **And there is no insurance policy in the world that convinces 20 sailors to go through the minefield.**

- \$40 billion insurance has not yet brought a single ship to Hormuz on a commercial scale.

But architecture is the key point. **The DFC toll station is portable.**

Just need the Joint War Committee to add Ninh Ba-Chushan, Qingdao, Yen Dai to the list of high-risk destinations, premiums on shipments to China immediately increase 10-50 times.

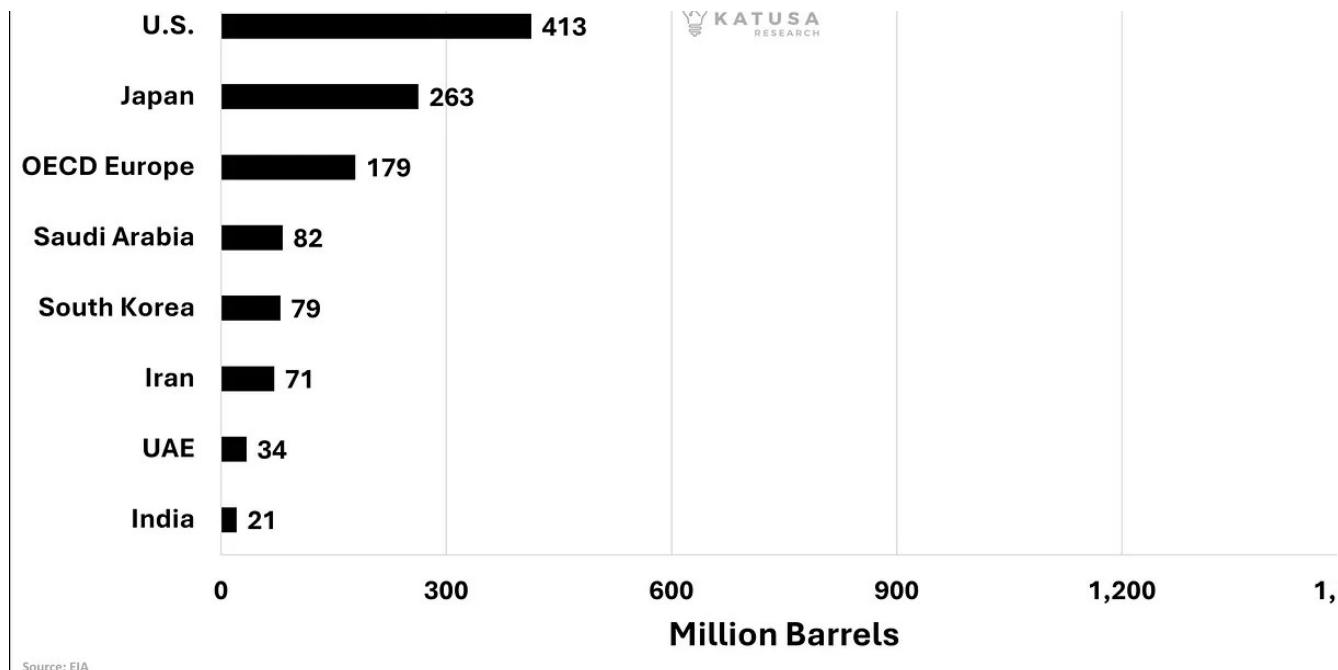
Insurance becomes a lockdown. No shots. Not on board. Legal architecture built on U.S. financial infrastructure controls.

China's defenses — and why not enough

China has a line of defense:

- **Strategic reserve of about 1.4 billion barrels** — the world's largest, 110-180 days of net imports





- **Land pipelines:** Myanmar, Kazakhstan (Atasu-Alazankou), Russia (ESPO, Siberia Power, Siberian Power 2 in talks) — a total of about 1.5 million barrels per day.
- **Russia increased** the first 300,000 bpd in early 2026 → total about 2.1 million. Ukraine's drone attacks reduced the volume of Russian sea oil exports by 24% in April. ESPO near maximum capacity. Siberian power 2 has not started yet — as early as 2030

Simple problem: the total capacity of Russia to China is about 2.5 million barrels per day under ideal conditions.

- China imported 10.5 million barrels a day before the war.
- The distance cannot be filled.

But there's deeper structural problems: **crude oil is not used by military fuel.**

- Without a specialized hydrogen cracking oven, it could not produce the JP-5, JF F-76 that Chinese military aircraft and warships consume.
- Stocks full of unrefined crude oil are just inventories, not capacity.
- Hydro-hydrogen cracking infrastructure is concentrated and easy to recognize.

- In conflict scenarios — they become targets.

During the long siege: China has about 4-6 months at the maximum consumption before distributing the raspberry causing political instability. That's the time frame t Pentagon is studying.

Part IV. U.S. Energy — Oil and Gas Disorders

The UAE left OPEC on January 5. This is not a subconceived.

- 59 years of membership.
- Capacity of nearly 5 million bpd, limited to about 3.6 million under OPEC.
- After leaving: the limit disappears.

≡

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United Arab Emirates to leave OPEC

May 1, energy chief says still committed to oil price stability

PUBLISHED TUE, APR 28 2026 8:31 AM EDT | UPDATED TUE, APR 28 2026 4:30 PM EDT

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Updated version: Removed UAE from OPEC/OPEC+ list (May 2026). Based on work by Caspiar Delta. Edited by DimAks0401.

The ace: the Habshan-Fujairah pipeline (ADCOP), which is 370 km long, completely dodges Hormuz, does not pass through the Straits a meter. — capacity 1.5-1.8 million bpd.

Saudi Arabia also has a similar East-West pipeline, with a capacity of 3-5 million barrels per day, pouring oil into the Red Sea instead of crossing the Persian Gulf.

Reconciled: Gulf producers can export 3.5-5.5 million barrels per day without passing through Hormuz — permanently.

Iran understands this calculation. That's why they attacked Fujairah on April 5 — no targeting the U.S. Navy, but targeting the infrastructure that allowed the Gulf oil to flow into the world without asking for permission from Tehran. If oil has a lap, Hormuz loses its leverage. And the Leverage of Hormuz is the only thing Iran can keep.

News | US-Israel war on Iran

UAE accuses Iran of attacks as 'large fire' breaks out at oil refinery

Authorities say an Iranian drone sparked a fire at the Fujairah Petroleum Industries Zone, wounding three people.

Paradox of Energy Dominance

Glimpse — Energy dominates sounds like a policy of lowering gas prices for Americans. Look closely — that's the theory of market share: dominating production and global valuation so that no competitor can buy the last barrel of oil in the market.

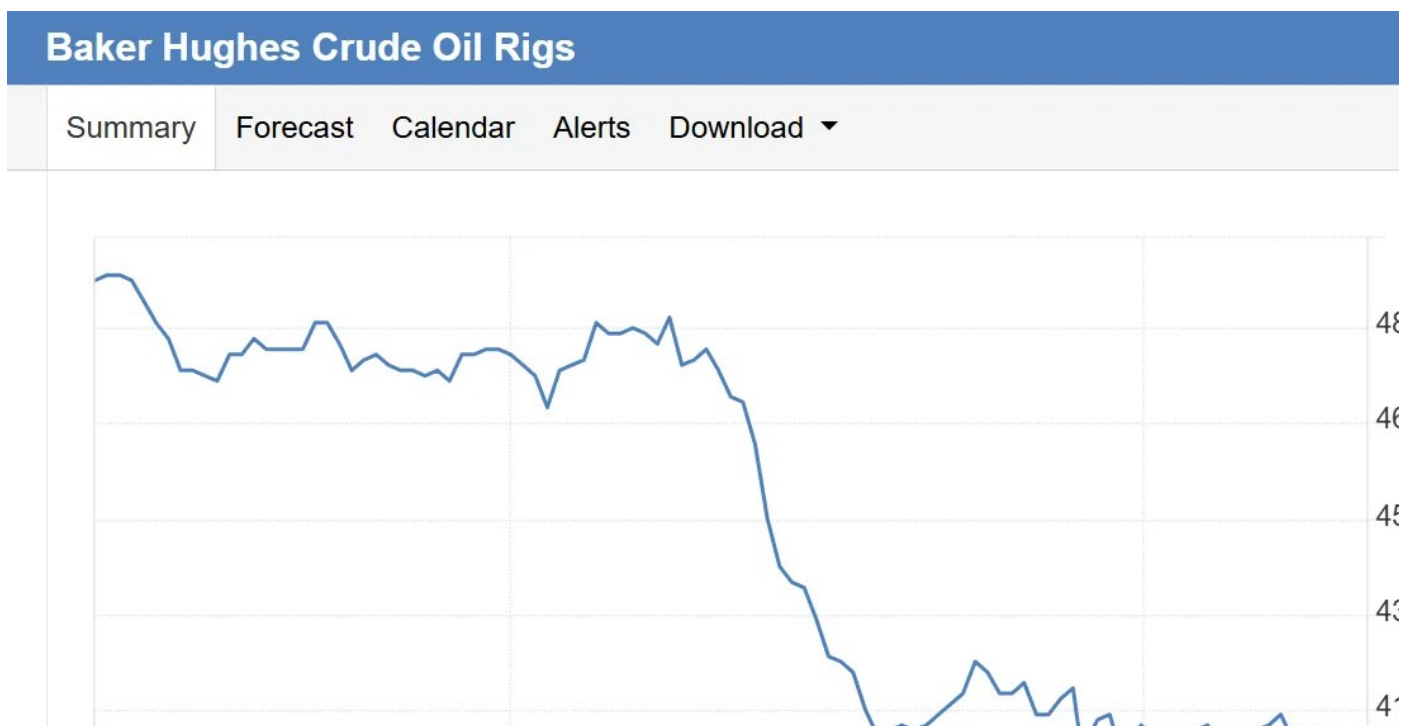
Steve predicts: change the Iranian regime → WTI below \$60 in the future.

But this doctrine is self-contradictory: to dominate production, it needs high enough prices for American oil fields to profit. To block the competition, the price is low enough for them to not buy.

- Those two targets pulled in opposite directions—and with oil, there might be no price that satisfies both at the same time.

The number of Baker Hughes rigs is clearly signaling:

- **Oil drilling rig:** from nearly 500 → 408, 20% off
- **Gas drilling rig:** up 21 truss over the same period last year





Logic from Steve: If Hormuz opens, the UAE floods the market, OPEC countries follow → oil prices collapse → Reasonable move = switch to gas. The rig data is confirming exactly that.

With gas — self-resolved paradox

U.S. natural gas has two structural driving forces that did not exist 5 years ago:

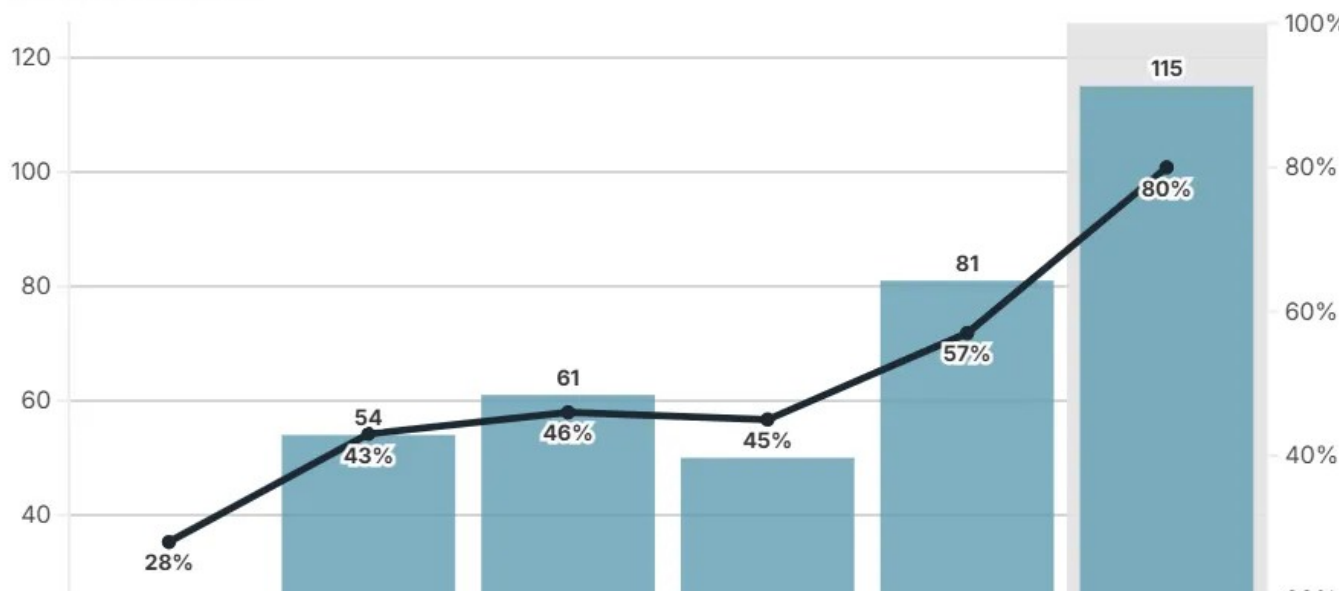
Motivation 1 — Europe:

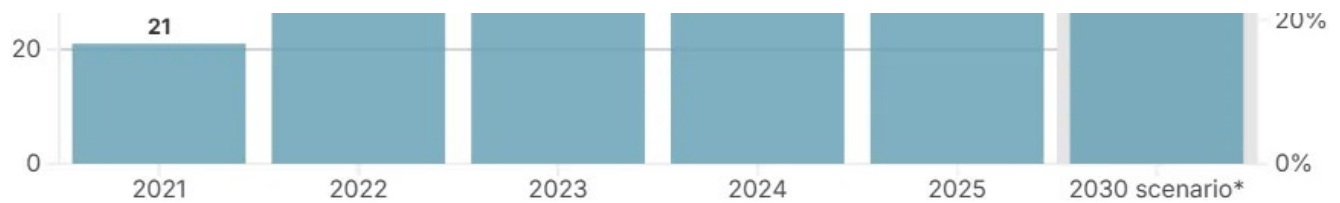
- US LNG exports to the EU reached 81-83 billion cubic meters, accounting for about 57% of EU LNG imports (compared to 21 billion cubic meters in 2021).
- Institute for Financial Analysis and Energy Economics (IEEFA): could be up to 80 by 2030.

The US could supply 80% of the EU's 2030 LNG imports

■ % EU LNG imports from US ■ EU imports of US LNG

Billion cubic metres





Source: Kpler, IEEFA's European LNG Tracker, IEEFA research. • Note: * The 2030 scenario assumes that the EU fulfils all its US LNG supply deals and the bloc's gas demand reduction efforts falter.



Institute for Energy Economic
and Financial Analysis

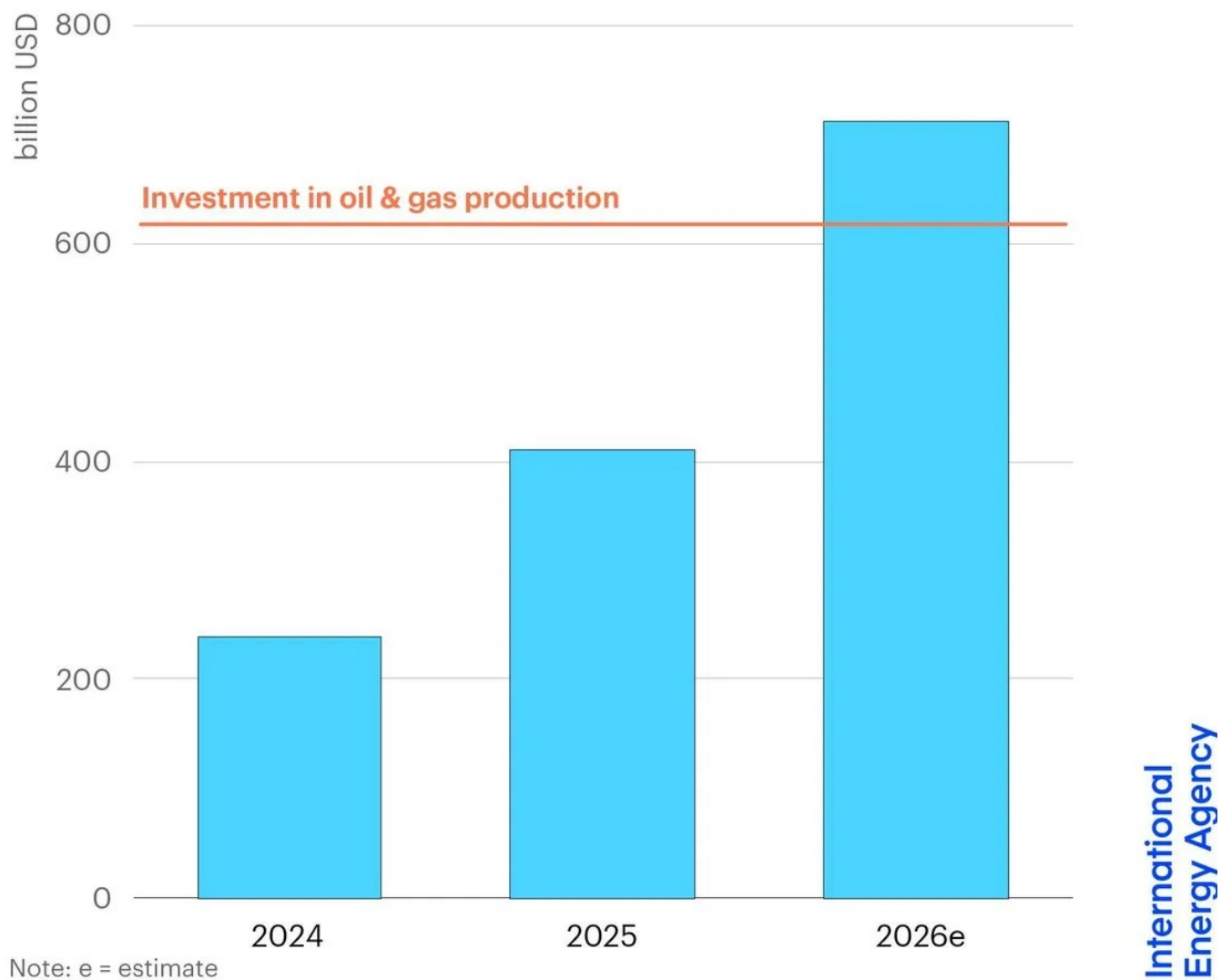
- The European wholesale electricity price is 2-4 times that of the United States (Eurelectric).
- After Russian pipeline gas was cut in 2022, Europe shifted its energy dependence from Moscow to Washington.
- Arms imports from the US: 64% of total (2020-2024).
- NATO aims to spend 5 percent of GDP on defense.
- This is a structural consequence of losing the main energy supplier and replacing it with its own country that is competing for technology.

Motivation 2 — AI Data Center:

- Electricity demand increased by 17% in 2025 (IEA), expected to double by 2030
- The five leading tech companies spend more than \$400 billion on data center infrastructure in 2025, plans to increase by 75% in 2026.
- The natural gas power for the data center increased by 71% from 2025 to 2026 while renewable energy increased by only 2% (U.S. Action Forum). Gas turbine costs increased by 66 percent over two years, waiting list until the early 2030s.

Driven by data centre investment, large tech companies' capital expenditure is surging

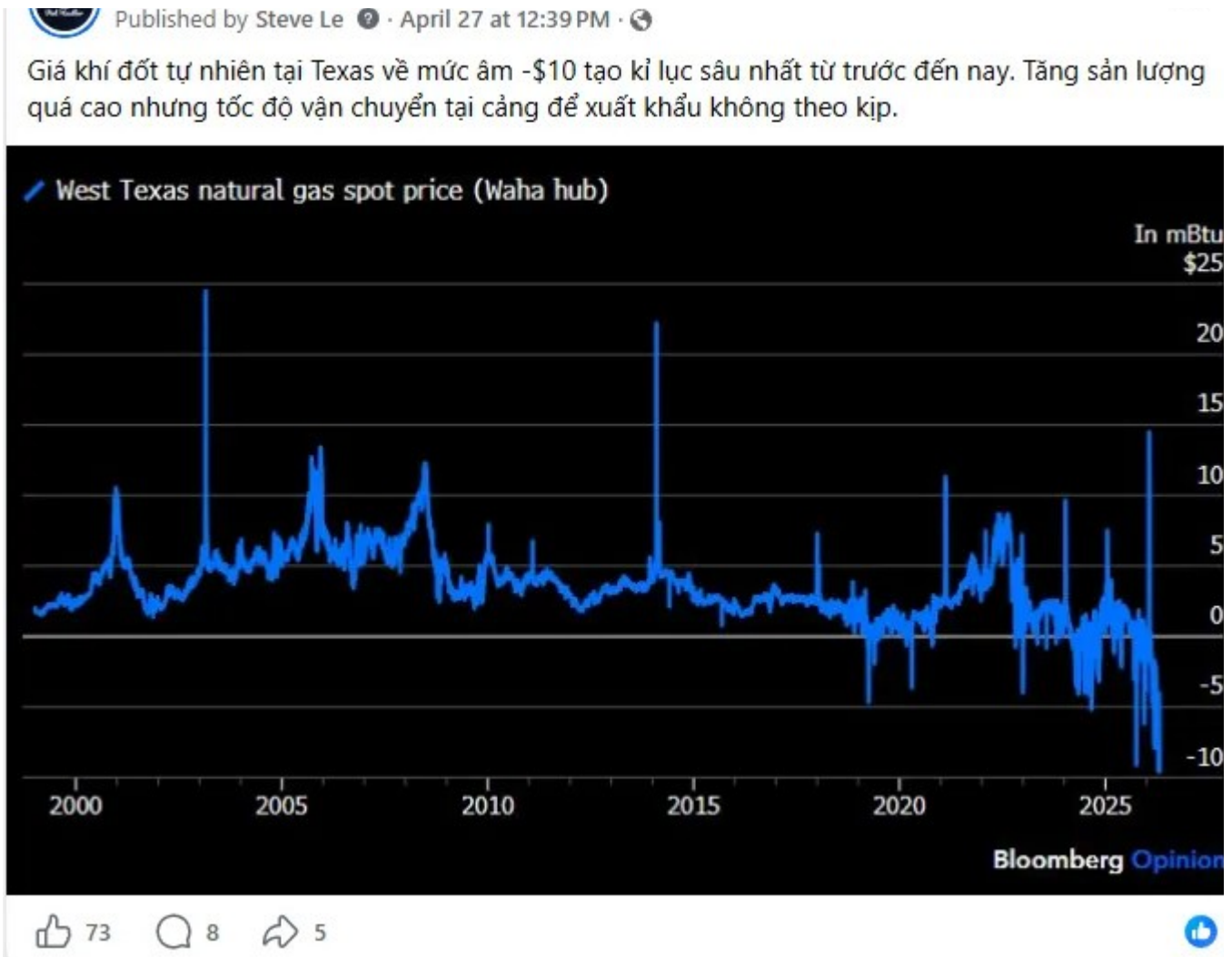
Capital expenditure by hyperscalers, 2024-2026e



Antero Resources — a test score: EPS corrected Q1/2026 to \$1.72 over the 1.22 consensus, surpassing 41 percent.

- Revenue \$1.95 billion, +44% Y/Y.
- Record output of 3.9 billion cubic feet equivalent per day.
- Paul Kennedy in the earnings call: "The growing interest from global LNG buyer looking to increase contact with U.S. supplies."

There is no motivation in those two things to disappear.



Part V. Resource Race — Locking The Backyard

The Iranian operation is not standing alone. It is a puzzle piece in a broader strategy cutting China from key resources across the Americas, the Arctic and the global mineral supply chain.

Venezuela

01/03/2026: Operation Absolute Resolve

- Maduro was arrested for 2 hours and 28 minutes.

VENEZUELAN POLITICAL CRISIS

US military details timeline of operation to capture Maduro, revealing more than 150 aircraft involved

Joint Chiefs Gen Dan Caine reveals 'Operation Absolute Resolve' involved 150-plus aircraft



By Greg Norman-Diamond · Fox News

Published January 3, 2026 3:27pm EST

- Trump cited the Monroe Doctrine — the principle that dates back to 1823 asserting that America is the sphere of American influence and no external force are interfered with.
- Why is Venezuela important? Look at the underground treasure: 303 billion bar of proven reserves (17% of the globe) and 300,000 tons of rare earths, 408,000 tons of nickel, 7-10 thousand tons of gold.
- Prior to the campaign: China was the main customer, yuan payment, the Chinese state bank held more than \$100 billion in mortgage loans with oil.
- After the campaign: the cash flow stops. The world's largest oil reserves and a giant rare earth field are no longer within Beijing's reach.



Viet Hustler - Tin tức tiếng Việt

Published by Steve Le · April 1 ·

55% dầu xuất khẩu của Venezuela là qua Ấn Độ với:

✓ Full giá thị trường.

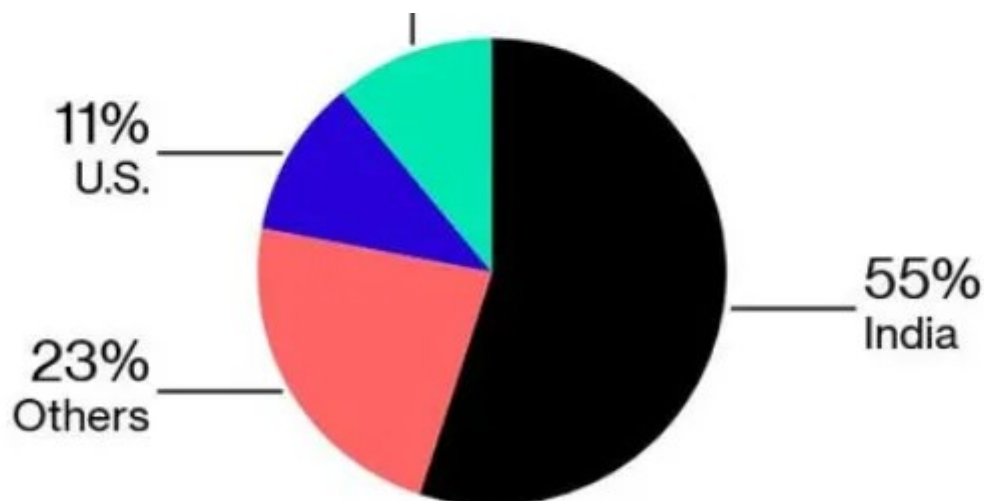
✓ Sản lượng dầu +200K về 1.1 triệu/ngày

🔥 Chiều nay Mỹ đã gỡ toàn bộ cấm vận với các thành viên chính phủ Delcy Rodríguez [See less](#)

Post-Sanctions Venezuelan Oil

India becomes top destination of Venezuelan oil exports.
Vessels to U.S. are stuck in South America awaiting
upfront payment

11%
China



Source: Shipping reports, ship-tracking data compiled by Bloomberg. Data for Feb. 1-15

Bloomberg

👍 42 💬 ➦ 1



Greenland

- Critical Metals Corp (CRML) closes 92.5% of Tanbreez projects in southern Greenland (04/39/2026).
 - The European Lithium holds 7.5%.
 - Submitted a letter expressing your intention to buy the rest.
- 4.7 billion tons of resources, about 27% of heavy rare earth oxides—are among the highest in the world.
 - To imagine: each F-35 fighter jet holds about 920 pounds of rare earth magnets. No rare earths, no modern fighter jets
- The Import and Export Bank (EXIM Bank): a \$120 million note — the first foreign mining investment under the Trump administration.
 - Saudi Arabia signs a code of cooperation.
 - Deals have been sorted: Ucore 10%, Realloys 15%, Saudi joint venture 25%
- December 5: The U.S. is in talks with three military bases in southern Greenland

along with the Tanbreez project area. Rare earth mines, new airports, and milita bases converge in the same place. It's no coincidence

- The trial plant started in May 26. First ore production: Q4/2028 - Q1/2029 target

Destroying the Exclusive Rare Earth

China controls 60-70% of mining, 88-91% processing and refining, 94% of permanent magnets — the magnet that is in all modern weapons from rocket to radar.

Beijing has used this position as leverage.

- April 2025: export control of 7 medium and heavy rare earths.
- October 2025: Issued Notice No. 61, which stipulates that any foreign product containing more than 0.1% of Chinese-origin rare earths require an export license from Beijing — applied outside the territory, simulating the main rules of technology control that the US uses to block chips to China.
- It is currently halted until November 26.

The U.S. counterattacked on multiple fronts at the same time:

- **MP Materials:** The Department of Defense buys \$400 million in shares (July 20 becoming the largest shareholder).
 - Commit to buy for 10-year floor price: \$110/kg for NdPr — nearly double the spot price in China (about \$60).
 - U.S. Pays Strategic Insurance Premiums to Ensure Supply Out of China Existence
- **USA Rare Earth:** \$1.6 billion in federal support, acquiring the Serra Verde mine in Brazil worth 2.8 billion. DFC funded 565 million. 15-year-old dump with guaranteed floor price: \$110, dysprosium 575, terbium \$2,0,050
- **Project Vault:** An important mineral reserve worth \$12 billion (10 billion from

EXPIM Bank + 1.67 billion private) — inspired by the Strategic Petroleum Reserve but instead of oil, mineral storage

- **Chile:** Joint Declaration March 12, 2006 — Chile Produces 23% of the World and holds the largest lithium reserves

The same pattern everywhere: Venezuela, Greenland, Brazil, Chile.

Guaranteed supply. Lock the floor price. Block the opponent from reaching out.

Duration: 2028 starts to be able to self-control supplies. But from now on — every F-35, every Tomahawk, every Apache, every Aegis radar is still powered by neodymium magnets separated in Sichuan.

Part VI. TSMC, Anduril & Countdown to 2027

Palmer Luckey — founder of Anduril Industries — on the Joe Rogan podcast in October 2025:

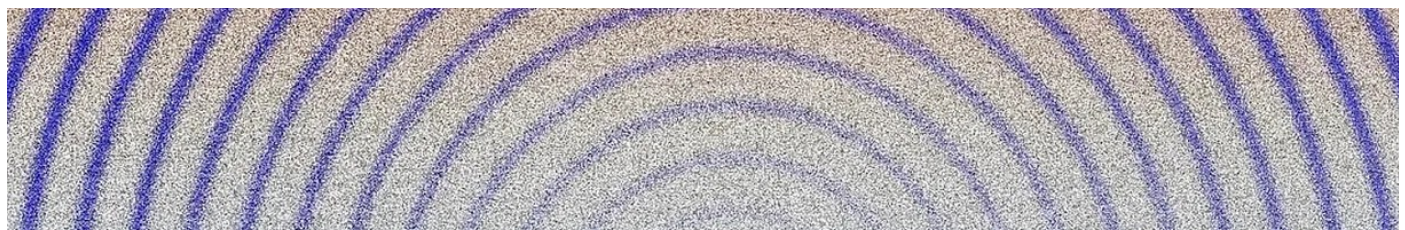
"Whatever we are doing, whatever we invest in, needs to be built with the assumption that around 2027, China will attack or blockade Taiwan."

Anduril: The 2nd Most Important Private Company In The United States

MARKET KNOWLEDGE

Anduril: The 2nd Most Important Private Company In The United States

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This is not the opinion of an outsider.

Luckey sold weapons to the Pentagon. Anduril has an internal policy called "China 2 every product, every feature, every investment decision runs through a single quest — is this ready before 2027?"

- Don't be ready to quit.
- And it's not just Anduril thinks so — Heritage Foundation, Hudson Institute, and the planners in the Pentagon Joint Chiefs of Staff are all planning based on the same assumption.

What is Anduril building?

- **The \$42 billion IVAS contract** — taken over from Microsoft (4/2025). Built-in image enhancement system
- **EagleEye Helmet** — Meta Collaboration. Extensive reality: real-time battlefield intelligence and drone control
- **Arsenal-1** in Ohio — producing a self-propelled system on an industrial automation scale. The name refers to Roosevelt's "Democrat's Weapons Store."
 - Ford's World War II-era Willow Run plant took three years to reach maximum

capacity, producing a B-24 Liberator every 63 minutes.

- Arsenal-1 goes from vacant ground to production of Fury-fighted drones in less than a year
- **Series F's fundraising round:** about \$1.5 billion, valued at 12.5-14 billion
- China sanctioned Luckey and Anduril on December 26, 2025 for selling weapon to Taiwan. Luckey: "Christmas gift."



Anduril Ghost X grenade launcher at Redstone Arsenal arsenal

Technology-defense consolidation

At the height of the Iran War: SpaceX abandoned Starlink service fees across Iran, overtaking the IRGC telecommunications blockade.

- Enable civil coordination, street-level demonstration organization, independent media distribution.
- Tehran says U.S. commercial satellite is a “legitimate military target.”

Starlink for communication. The Tesla method for drones. Meta virtual reality hardware for battlefield awareness.

U.S. trade technology reused for strategic competition — at the pace that China’s state-led innovation model is struggling to catch up.

The Pentagon has also approached General Motors and Ford for the transition of automobile chains to military production.



Russia-Ukraine War >

Russia Struggles in Eastern Ukraine

Russia’s Victory Day Parade

Deadly Strikes in Ukraine

‘The Death Zone’

Photos

Pentagon Seeks Help From Ford and G.M.

Concerned about the slow pace and high cost of weapons production, Pentagon officials have begun talks with General Motors and Ford Motor about producing certain parts.

Listen · 5:26 min

Share full article



Vulnerability: TSMC

TSMC produces 90% of the world’s most advanced logic chips (under 7 nanometers) about 60% of advanced chips in general, 70% of global chip casting revenue. Top 10 customers represent 14 trillion USD market capitalization.

The intermittent simulation model is very serious:

- **U.S.:** Loss of 2.5 Trillion in GDP (A1c 11 Percent) — Doubles 2008 Financial Crisis
- **Global:** loss of 10.6 trillion (decrease 9.6% of GDP in its first year) — worse than

COVID and 2008

- **China:** \$2.8 trillion (down 16%). Bessment: 'The end of the world on economics

Arizona Fab 21 Phase 1 has been operating — but:

- When Taiwanese engineers arrive: performance improves.
- When they leave: the performance decreases.
- Phase 2 installs Q3/2026 equipment, mass production of 3nm target 2027.
- Arizona total investment: expanded to \$165 billion.
- Advanced CoWoS—what Nvidia and Apple depend on—mostly complete in Taiwan.
- The cost of the U.S. is more than 5-20% per wafer sheet.

Loops

Taiwan imports 97% of its energy. Mostly it's LNG. Most LNG through Hormuz. The island that produces 90% of the world's best chips depends on the bottleneck that IRGC is laying mines.

Taiwan will expand U.S. LNG imports from June.



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ENERGY

Taiwan to expand US LNG imports in response to Hormuz closure

Energy source fuels half of island's electricity, with Qatar a major supplier

The circle is closed: American natural gas → Taiwan factory → semiconductor chips → American weapons system.

Hormuz is a disruption that creates Taiwan's energy dependence on U.S. exports. At the same time, it was cut off the supply of China and anchored the Taiwanese chip factory into U.S. gas.

VII. The Petrodollar — Let's Say It's Right.

Steve once explained a lot about Petrodollar theory, why most of them have a misunderstanding:

IS PETRODOLLAR DEAD, VIETNAM AND ASIA RESCUE DOLLARS?

- Iran-China oil trade has moved to yuan payment, through CIPS — China's own payment system, running in parallel with SWIFT without touching the dollar.
- Iran holds \$7 billion currency swap deal with People's Bank of China
- mBridge — the digital currency project led by the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) in Hong Kong, with the participation of China, Thailand, the U and Saudi Arabia — is building a cross-border payment infrastructure that absolutely does not need USD.

The Petroyuan structure is essentially a system to dodge sanctions.

Can the yuan replace the dollar? China still controls capital, the yuan is not free to convert, so it cannot become global reserves. But there's no need. It just needs to be the means of payment for trade being sanctioned — and that's happening.

Dollar dominance

Currency usage in offshore banking (\$tn). US dollar deposit liabilities booked by internationally active banks in jurisdictions other than the US

■ \$ ■ € ■ £ ■ ¥ ■ SFr. ■ Crypto dollar



Sources: BIS Locational Banking Statistics, 'The Impact of Stablecoins on the International Monetary & Financial System' (Alderson, Frost & Ito, SSRN 2006)

© FT

The Iran War was the first time that the entire system of this replacement — CIPS, the yuan swap, mBridge — was tested under maximum pressure at the same time. Whether it stands ground or collapses is one of the most important financial questions of the decade.

The U.S. response is clear: it costs anyone using that alternative system to pay heavy price.

- Precedented: In 2012, the U.S. Treasury Department sanctioned China's Kunlun Bank for processing Iranian oil payments, removing it from SWIFT.
- The model that Bessent is building now is an expanded version: every Chinese bank involved in Iran's cash flow is at risk of suffering the same fate.

Read more about the currency war: **WHY DOES the UAE APPLY FOR SWAP LINE C THE US?**

VIII. Who Is Professor Jiang-Iran Is The Trap For?

Jiang Xueqin is a name that is no stranger, and Steve is a lot of criticism.

Jiang Xueqin was born in Guangdong in 1976, immigrated to Toronto at the age 6, earning a Bachelor of English Literature degree at Yale in 1999, working on Chinese education reform throughout the 2000s, and since 2022 has taught philosophy at the Moonshot Academy in Beijing. His YouTube channel, History Predicts, has about 2.5 million subscribers. The Western press called him "Nostradamus of China." He appeared on Tucker Carlson, Piers Morgan, Breaking Points and Diary of a CEO.





In May 2024, in a sermon titled "The Iranian Trap" (Geopolitical Strategy #8), Jiang predicted: on the

- Trump re-elected in November 2024.
- The United States is increasingly deeply involved in a conflict with Iran in a period of three to four years.
- He predicted the "Technate," a North American economic fortress built on energy self-sufficiency, critical mineral control and technological dominance, designed to consume the world's resources but to allocate them.

Initiation is true of the first two predictions. The third prediction is that the prediction is taking place this week in Beijing.

Jiang's similarity was the Athenian expedition to Sicily, in 415 to 413 BC. Greece's most powerful state nation has launched the largest naval expedition in Greek history against a wealth and distant target. The expedition was destroyed. This failure opens the verge of Athens' permanent decline. Jiang's argument is that the U.S. Army has unparalleled arrogance and believes they can win any war. Iran was to provoke a long-running conflict because the attrition of the war will cause the

collapse of empires that reach out too long. The petrodollar is based on Saudi Arabia's involvement. The prolonged turbulence in the Persian Gulf will eventually break the bond of the dollar.

Steve has criticized this video many times with too many wrong points that have been proven by time:

1. Spreads to the military
2. Effects of GCC block
3. Impact on the U.S. economy

But most importantly in game theory:

Jiang considered the Iran war a trap for the United States.

The Iran War was a fierce but short military operation followed by an indefinite naval and financial blockade.

China is exposed as a person who is reaching too far from the strategic side. There is investment money, debt traps, oil purchases in remote places but **not the ability to take troops to protect the national interests far away.**

Jiang's prediction assumes that the United States will wage the kind of war the United States often fights but in the old days, the mired, which lasted for decades without a clear goal. On the contrary:

- A pre-emptive strike that killed the leader lasted 12 hours
- 5 weeks of high-intensity airstrikes destroy key targets
- Followed by a blockade

→ It is not a war of attrition. This is a war to destroy the structure of a nation from economy, politics to military.

Professor Jiang was right about the trap, but wrong about who would be caught in there.

- "Sure only" $\neq$ "victory"
- "Disruption of trade" $\neq$ "control of sea trade"
- "possibly dangerous" $\neq$ "military threat"

VIDEO: IF THE U.S. DOESN'T FIGHT IRAN AND VENEZUELA

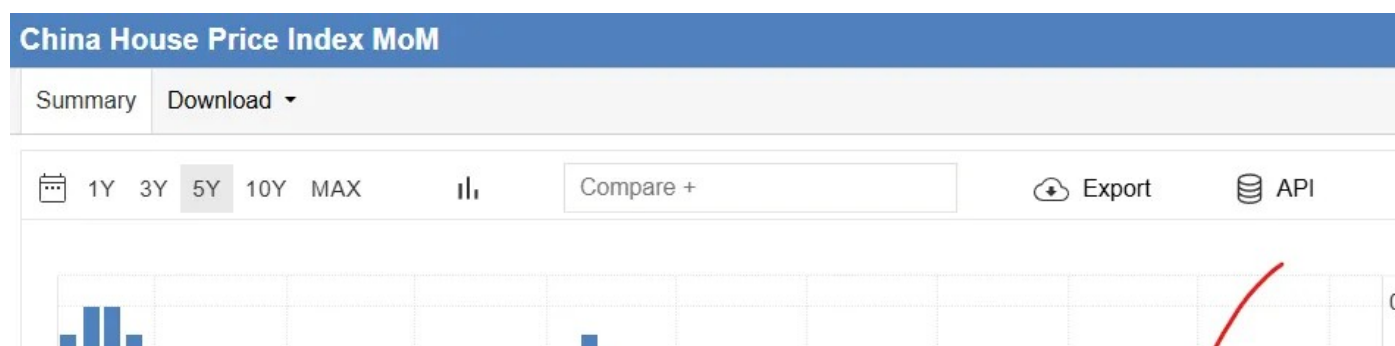
IX. The Top — Four Problems, A Real Negotiation

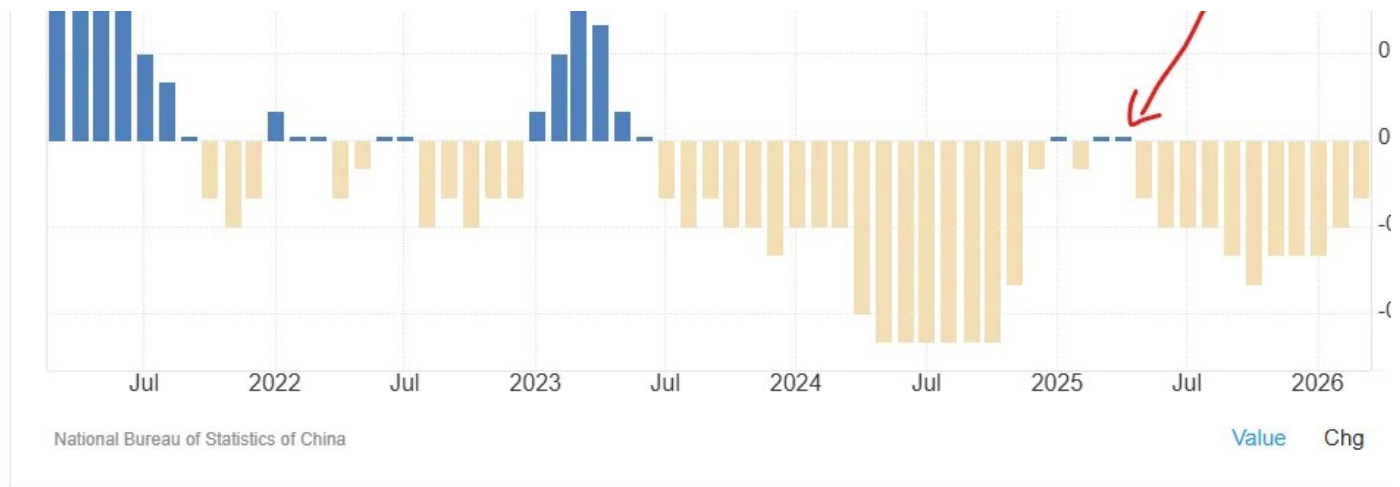
The game has been changed.

Comparisons 2025 and 2026:

2025 — U.S. on the table with weak hands:

- China controls 88-91% of rare earth processing
- TSMC Exclusive Position Brings Underground Leverage to Beijing
- The oil yuan is being noticed. Dollar stockpile share falls
- Iran to sell oil to China unharmed
- China holds Panama Port
- China's economy is slowly getting out of deflation



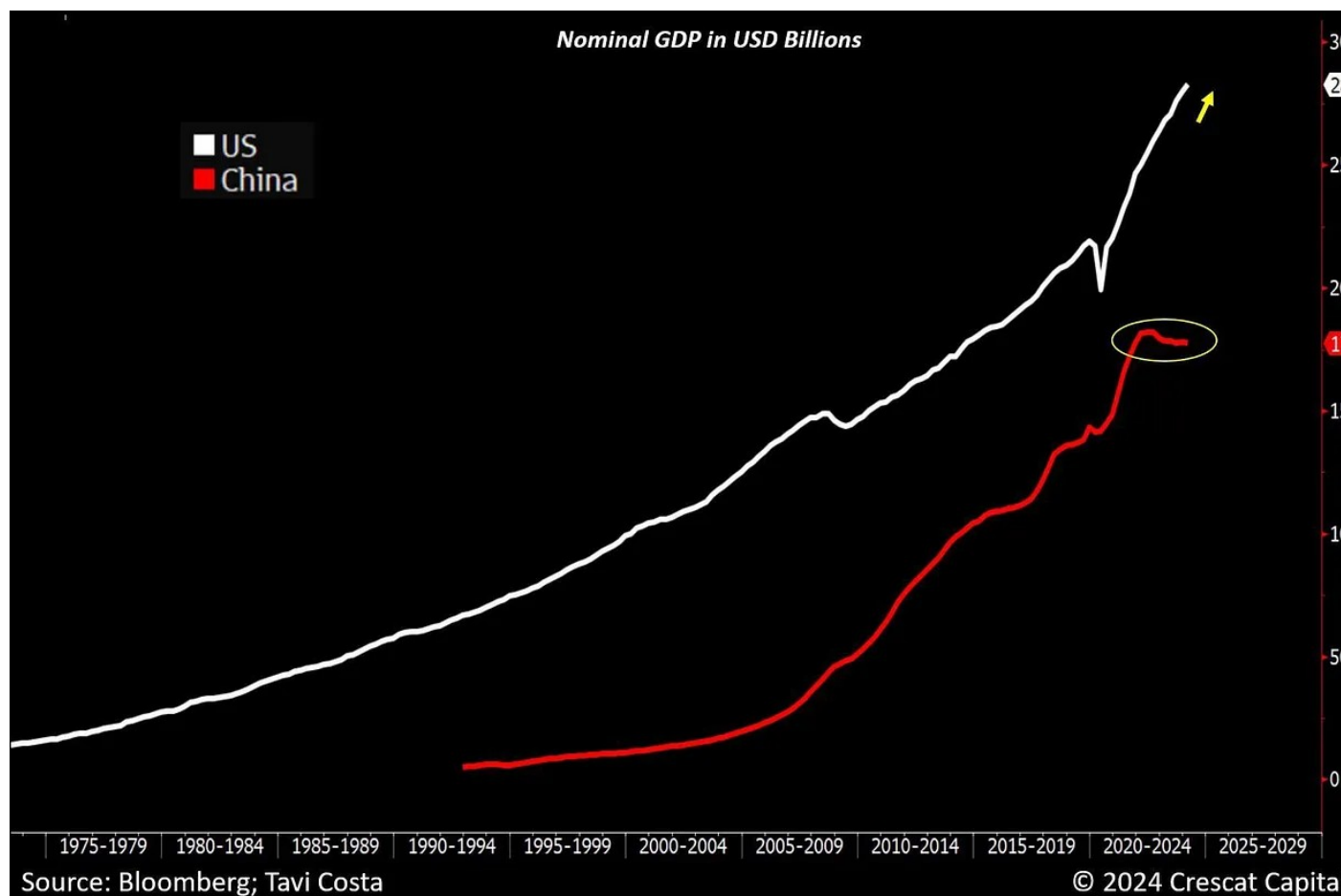


What happened on 04/2025?

2026 — another game:

- U.S. takes Panama
- U.S. economy still grows, reduces imports from China by 30%
- China's economy remains in deflation
- Chinese weapons are questioned in Venezuela and Iran.
- Hormuz was blocked. China lost 1.5 million barrels per day of Iranian oil and was restricted by 4-6 million barrels per day. DFC facility processing limited into structure
- Venezuela has 303 billion barrels of reserves and rare earth under U.S. management.
- Tanbreez, Serra Verde, Project Vault began to break the rare earth monopoly. Deadline: from "someday" to 2028
- UAE leaves OPEC — unlimited output waiting for Hormuz to reopen
- US LNG to the EU: 81-83 billion cubic meters, 57% of total imports. Total energy dependence

US vs. China GDP



Four issues at the negotiating table

1. China will commit to buy 25 million tons of soybeans a year and order Boeing up 500 units.

- Đây là giá vé vào cửa cho một bức ảnh chụp chung.
- But 2017, Trump also brought in a \$38 billion memorandum of money from Beijing — surpassing the GDP of West Virginia — and none of them came to fruition.

2. Rare Earths: China's ban on rare earth exports (Note 61) is halting until November 2006 — likely to be renewed.

- China takes the card and can exchange tariffs or eases the ban on US chip exports
- Both sides need a truce.

- But what China demands to exchange will show which weaknesses are the most painful.

3. Taiwan (most sensitive): CFR/CSIS: Beijing wants to transfer "do not support" → "opposition" to Taiwan independence. It sounds easy, but not.

- "No support" is passive. "The counteroffensive" is proactive — Taipei will understand that the U.S. is leaning into Beijing's position that the future of Taiwan's politics is not decided by Taiwan.
- Bonnie Glaser (German Marshall Fund): changing the Taiwanese language to give in to Iran is the "most destabilizing outcome."
- But according to the logic of this article, this is also the least likely result. All strategic architecture — the 2027 clock, semi-conductive, counterattacking rare earths, DFC — all exist because the government considers Taiwan as the last gasp.
- No one trades the last move to get the opening water.


Viết Hustler - Tin tức tiếng Việt
 Published by Steve Le · April 9 ·

(WSJ) Trung Quốc ép Iran chấp nhận ngừng bắn vì muốn ghi điểm với chính quyền Trump, hi vọng Trump đồng ý coi Đài Loan là một tỉnh của Trung Quốc

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China Gains Favor With Trump by Dipping Into Iran Diplomacy

Beijing hopes that nudging Tehran into a cease-fire buys goodwill for May summit between the president and Xi Jinping

By [Lingling Wei](#) [Follow](#)

April 9, 2026 4:21 pm ET




 Listen (2 min)



4. Iran (real talks): Bessment confirms Iran dominates the discussions.

- U.S. position: China must force Tehran into permanent peace — reopen Hormu. nuclear disarmament, and dismantle the IRGC attack capability.
- Implicit threat: "Project Freedom Plus" — breaking the blockade of Hormuz by force.
- Iranian Foreign Minister Araghchi visited Beijing on June 5, Wang urged Iran to open the Strait.
- The CSIS explained: China is "imagining the image is trying" before the summit begins.

The idea from Steve: Iran-China relations also have a big question mark when Chinese ships do not come to Hormuz comfortably, speaking from Iran also shows the breakpage in relations so even China demand, Iran is unlikely to agree.

Verification of media

The Trump administration claimed to have destroyed much of Iran's military power: percent of air defenses, 90 percent of ballistic missiles, and 78% of naval vessels.

But the American press tells another story:

- Iran has held about 75 percent of its mobile launch pad and 70 percent of its missile stockpile.
- Iran has restored its underground storage, repaired damaged missiles, assembled new.
- The CIA also assessed that Iran could withstand a blockade of another 3-4 months.

A notable detail: Mojtaba Khamenei — son of the Supreme Leader, who was appointed successor — has not been made public since September 3.

- It could be seriously injured, maybe not.
- But the prolonged absence indicates the mode is cracking from within.

The gap between the government's optimistic report and the press assessment — the real risk that the market needs to reflect on the price.

Two-sided thesis

Xi Jinping bets on time. The November 2022 mid-term election will erode Trump's political capital. Succeeded by 2028 is uncertain. China only needs to avoid losing in the next two years. Sit still. Waiting.

Trump bets on speed. The blockade encirclement is squeezing. Rare-earning counterattack is accelerating. The defense technology ecosystem is expanding. Iran regime is cracking. Every month that passes without a deal is a month of America stronger and China weakens. If Xi does not bring compliance from Iran at the summit — the U.S. will escalate.

X. What Is The Market Waiting For?

Trump and Xi have two days to talk.

Topics are watching:

- **Energy — oil and gas are going in two directions:** American drills are withdrawing oil rigs, pouring into gas.
 - LNG companies benefit from two new sources of demand: Europe hungry for energy and AI data centers.
 - When Hormuz reopens, the UAE will flood the oil market with unlimited output — oil prices may collapse, but gas is not
- **Rare Earths & Defense Technology:** 2-4 years ago when processing capacity outside China reached a large enough scale.
 - During that time, each F-35 still depends on magnets from Sichuan.
 - The counterattack is accelerating — but the clock is also counting down.
- **Maritime Insurance Architecture:** The \$40 billion DFC reinsurer will survive an ceasefire.
 - And it can be applied to Taiwan by just one administrative decision.
 - This is a fundamental change in how the U.S. controls the shipping line — via insurance instead of warships.
- **Semi:** Performance difference between TSMC factory in Arizona and Taiwan, the concentration of CoWoS packaging, and Taiwan's energy flaws form unprecedented risk clusters for the global technology industry
- **Currency & interest rate:** CPI 3.8% tied up the Fed's hand — it's hard to cut interest rates when inflation is high. A yield of 10 years 4.45% and climbing. Petrodollar is eroding, the question is whether the CIPS replacement system is under pressure from the U.S. Treasury.

The Iran war is not an isolated war. It is a test for a completely new way of control the U.S. doesn't need warships on every sea route to decide who gets through and

who doesn't. Just control the insurance system, the payment system, the sanctions system — what the U.S. has built and is running.

- *Want to carry oil through Hormuz? Insurance must be purchased through the U.S. \$40 billion DFC fund.*
- *Want to pay for oil? We have to go through the banking system that the U.S. monitors.*

It's an invisible toll booth — and it'll still be there after the bomb stops falling, after the cease-fire is signed, after the camera leaves. May 14 and 15 will begin to give the answer — whether that way of playing Trump is bold, or reckless.



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